



The Senior Athlete

Montgomery County
Senior Sports Association

Volume 25, Issue 2
April 3, 2016

MCSSA IS 25 Years Old

The year 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association (MCSSA). This organization provides opportunities for senior citizens to participate in sports programs. Starting with a single softball league with four teams, the organization has grown to today's level of running eight softball leagues and five basketball leagues, plus walk-in programs for both volleyball and basketball.

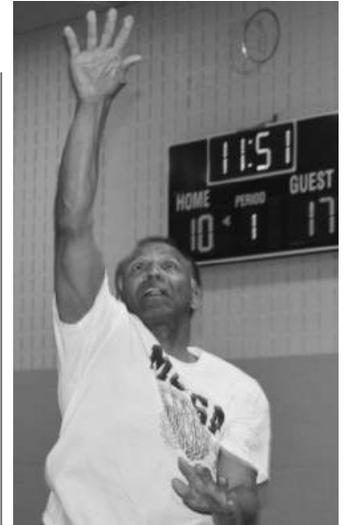
But here is how it all started. There was senior softball in Montgomery County before MCSSA came into being. The Co-Rec League started in 1983 and played on Wednesday mornings at Layhill Park. You had to be 55 or over to play in the league. Originally the teams were formed by groups coming from the various senior centers throughout the county. Those senior ball players who wanted a more challenging level of play had to travel to either northern Virginia for daytime leagues or Anne Arundel County for night-time leagues.

A group of Montgomery County athletes who were playing at these

more competitive levels were anxious to get on teams made up of local talent. Ken Scholl approached Bill Tait and convinced him to develop a database of seniors willing and able to play senior softball. In the summer of 1991, Ralph Pryor, a recreation specialist with the Montgomery County Recreation Department, established a night-time league for 55 and over men and asked the teams from the Co-Rec league to consider putting a team in this new league. Four teams were formed and night-time softball was underway.

Then in October 1991 a group of 20 ball players got together to discuss organizing a senior softball association. From this meeting a board of directors was elected and formed the nucleus of the Montgomery County Senior Softball Association. In 1995 the name was changed to the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association (MCSSA). It was stated at the original meeting that the goal of MCSSA was to promote senior softball in the county by passing the word of the programs available through the Recreation Department

Cont. on Page 4 **MCSSA**



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Dates to Remember

- Week of April 18 Action begins in spring softball leagues.
- July 16 MCSSA Picnic at Olney Manor Park plus league All-Star games.
- July 17 Twentieth Annual "Bill Tait" Invitational Softball Tournament



This is ample proof that Tom Gessel cannot complain anymore that he does not get any calls from the officials

From the Editor's Desk:

Those whose dues expire on March 31, 2016, this will be your last issue of the *Senior Athlete* until you renew your MCSSA dues.

* * * * *

Speaking of MCSSA fees, many people overlooked the directions in the last issue of the *Senior Athlete* where we indicated that your dues are included in the posted price for your league fees. Again, many people sent in the posted price along with league dues, sometimes twice, when signing up for more than one league. But do not fear. When you sent in additional funds you were credited with paying for your dues in advance.

* * * * *

Congratulations and many, many thanks to Hal Reuben for stepping up and becoming the Acting Commissioner for the 65 and 70 Basketball Leagues in John Medford's absence. Hal worked tirelessly to make all things work including the deft way he staged the playoffs in both leagues.



The timekeeper and the scorer, Harold and Glenn

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

C. S. Lewis

In Memoriam

Francis "Bud" Money
Feb 1933—Jan 2016

Art Kuehn
Oct 1936—Jan 2016



Dewey Clark and Art Hiban in close contact in the 70+ league.

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MCSSA
14320 Fairdale Road



MCSSA Personality Profile Al Lavender



I was born in Brooklyn on November 17, 1925, just before the great depression. Being four years old when it hit, I did not comprehend what was going on around me. We were fortunate that my father retained his "outstanding" job as a trolley conductor, not very exciting for a trained furniture-cabinet maker and otherwise intelligent person. We moved to the Bronx when I was six.

There we had activities like stickball, touch football, Johnny on the pony – all played on the streets, which were very safe (not many cars). We played baseball on poor fields in run-down Crotona Park and softball on concrete schoolyards where sliding was a test of your level of stupidity. Like many others, when our baseball covers fell apart we used either first aid white or black electrical tape and continued to play. Three years later the Federal Government's WPA program restored the parks, ball fields and running tracks to first class condition.

Attended James Monroe High School in the Bronx and played baseball on the recently improved fields. But World War II started and soon after we graduated it did not take long to get your notice. I graduated in June 1943 and was drafted in February 1944.

My mother always wanted me to attend college and become an engineer, just like her cousin. There was no money for that, so I took commercial courses like book-

keeping, commercial law and typing to give me a better chance to get an office job. But along came the war. I did basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ and then was assigned to Camp Campbell, KY to the 285th Combat Engineer Battalion. The first chance I got, I called my mother and told her the good news – "Mom, your wishes have come true, I am now an engineer," although not the kind of engineer she was thinking about.

Next was more training at Ft. Riley, KS and then on to the Pacific theater. The trip from San Francisco to the island of Panay in the Philippines took 30 days. We were on a troopship the entire trip with NO protective cover. We trained for the ultimate invasion of Japan. It included climbing down nets into the landing boats, then circling around until all units were ready, in formation, and heading for the beach. Our planes circled overhead and zoomed the beach shooting away in support of the maneuver and to take the fright out of what was happening.

We did this exercise three or four times during a five day period by carrying out the landings, practicing beach formations and after we completed the exercise, locating your landing craft to return to the mother ship. When we returned to the ship after the last exercise, the ship's captain announced that the US dropped a "very high explosive bomb over Japan, but Japan did not respond." An "atom bomb" was never mentioned as this was very secretive information and no one would know what it was. The landing exercises continued for several more days, but by this time the captain announced that "another high explosive bomb" was dropped. but this time Japan wanted to talk about peace. The exercises were called off and we returned to our base on Panay.

Back in camp life was very boring. I made a surprising discovery in the Infantry Journal dated November 1945. In the centerfold there was a double page map of Japan with the title "Operation Olympic Plan for Victory" which showed where units would land during the invasion. We were scheduled to land in Koshiki Retto, in floating reserve and were to make a diversionary feint off Shikoku. If this war lasted three more months and we did invade Japan, I probably would not be here to tell you about it nor would I have been here to enjoy my future life. Dropping the atom bombs probably saved me and many others from premature death as the Japanese were not pushovers.

(Cont. on Page 8 Lavender)

A NOTE FROM ROGER DREEBEN

Gentlemen. I wish to inform you all that my wife and I are in the midst of putting our condo in North Bethesda on the market as we have found the need to consolidate our living quarters into the state of Florida since purchasing a home there a couple of years ago, mainly because we are not spending enough time in Maryland to justify keeping two full time residences.

The downside to this is that I will not be able to play in the Montgomery County Senior Softball season this spring and summer. I have been participating in this wonderful league for approximately the last 15 years and I can truly say that it has changed my life for the better in so many ways. It is in fact the essence of my being able to live my life as a senior guy without having to look back in sadness of my lost youth but to look forward to each new season as a happy old guy who loves the sport and the companionship of so many fine men.

I have been playing in Florida and it's fine but there is always something very special about your first born. My wife and I still have a son in Maryland and two grandchildren so we plan on making some short trips north to see them from time to time. As of now we are planning to come to Maryland for a longer stay for a total of about six weeks during the latter part of August and most of September, therefore I am hoping to be able to participate in the fall leagues during that time.

I would ask you to change my mailing address as I would very much appreciate getting the newsletter. Please give my best to all the guys but especially to Spike, who mentored me for so many years along with Jacky Loube and Ed Guilette and have given more to me than I could possibly ask for! Thanks again for everything,



A big rebound for someone.

Cont from Page 1 MCSSA

and to publicize the programs in various media that was available. The goal was to provide the opportunity for seniors of all abilities (Age 50 for men and Age 40 for women) to compete and stay healthy.

Bill Tait was President from 1991 to 2003. Jim Ganz succeeded Bill and is still serving as President. John Rice signed on in early 1992 as Treasurer and continues to serve in that capacity. In 2010, MCSSA received Federal Income Tax exception status under section 501©3 of the Internal Revenue Code as well as State sales tax exemption in Maryland.

Today MCSSA runs 8 senior softball and 5 senior Basketball leagues. There are 650 active members and a database of over 2200 members who have participated in the programs.

“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you don’t stop”

Confucius

All Star Weekend

All Star Weekend Festivities will begin on Saturday, July 16 with the MCSSA Picnic and All Star Softball games.

There will be two All Star Games played on Field #4. The first beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the Morning and Evening 60+ leagues facing off.

The picnic begins at 11:00 am and there is time where everyone can enjoy great food and great company between the softball games.

The picnic celebration will be followed by the game between the Tuesday evening and Friday evening 50+ leagues.

On Sunday, July 17, the Twentieth Annual MCSSA Bill Tait Invitational Senior Softball Tournament will be held on Fields #3, #4 and #5. We will have four 65+, four 70+ and four 75+ teams vying for honors. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Field #4.



2015-16 Final Basketball Standings and Stats

70+ League

Team	Color	Coach	Won	Lost
Lions	Blue	Reuben	9	2
Red Power	Red	Berman	9	2
Leftovers	White	Carlman	3	8
Gold Oldies	Gold	Staines	1	10

Lions won regular season championship
Red power won the Playoffs

65+ League

2016 65+ Standings

Team	Coach	Won	Lost
Red	Doug Squires	11	3
White	Jacky Loube	7	7
Gold	Dana Kurtz	3	11

Red team won the regular season
championship and Playoffs

70+ League Scoring

Name	3s	2s	FTM	Total
Steve Lawrence		90	42	222
Tom Gessel	34	29	33	193
Herb Ballard	30	14	9	127
Hal Reuben	11	31	5	100
Bill Cornwell		32	15	79
John Wells	3	29	8	73
Ralph Conlin		32	7	71
Ken Lynch		29	5	63
Mike Doyle		29	2	60
Bill Kamenoff		22	10	54
Jim Martin	14	3	5	53
Bob Stroud		24		48
John Medford	5	15	2	47
Mike Thompson		22	3	47
Ray McClellan		21	4	46
Neal Gillen		19	4	42
Dewey Clark	1	15	5	38
Al Hunter	5	10		35
Rick Chap		10	10	30
Neil Hoffman		13	2	28
Ken Yednock		11	5	27
Stan Fisher		11	4	26
Norm Spencer		10	6	26
Jack Staines		13		26
Bill Perrick		11	1	23
Frank Carlman		8	3	19
Larry Storrs		8		16
Jacky Loube	2	3	2	14
Herb Parcover		4		8

65+ League Scoring

Name	3s	2s	FTM	Total
Ralph Finney	27	91	24	287
Gary Lake	11	85	32	235
Doug Squires	1	88	22	201
Herb Ballard	30	32	23	177
Dana Kurtz	6	43	33	137
Mike Gordon	4	54	16	136
Tom Gessel	33	11	12	133
Bob Wasilewski	4	34	4	84
Dave Sund	11	20	9	82
Tony Upson		31	15	77
Earl Mundell	1	29	4	65
Bill Kamenoff		26	12	64
Pete Reichwein	1	26	9	64
Steve Lawrence		26	7	59
Jim Martin	13		5	44
Jonathon Lyon		21	1	43
Ira Feldman		19	4	42
Ralph Conlin		14	11	39
Bill Cornwell		13	2	28
Steve Svartz		9	7	25
Steve Einhorn		12		24
Rick Chap		6		12

The entire 65+ league



White Team Front row: Jim Martin, Tony Upson and Jacky Loube. Rear row: Gary Lake, Mike Gordon, Steve Svartz and Ira Feldman.



Red Team Front row: Ralph Conlin, Dave Sund and Steve Einhorn. Rear row: Bob Wasilewski, Doug Squires, Earl Mundell and Kip Howell.



Yellow Team Front row: Tom Gessel and Nick Fleischer. Rear row: Bill Cornwell, Bill Kamenoff, Herb Ballard and Dana Kurtz.



Ira Feldman up for two in heavy company.



Gary Lake gets off a shot over three defenders.



Tom Gessel for three.



The entire 70+ League



Lions Front row: Ken Yednock, Tom Gessel and Art Hiban. Rear Row: Stan Fisher, Hal Reuben and Herb Ballard



Red Power Front row: Bill Perrick, Ray McClellan and Bob Stroud. Rear Row: Bill Cornwell, Steve Lawrence and Kip Howell.



Gold Oldies Front row: John Medford. Rear Row: Ken Lynch, Mike Thompson, Jack Staines, Bert Kapinus and John Wells.



Leftovers Front row: Ralph Conlin, Neil Hoffman and Al Hunter. Rear Row: Mike Doyle, Bill Kamenoff, Dewey Clark and Frank Carlman.



This is something unusual, it was the Jump Ball to open the game and neither of the jumpers left the ground.



Steve Lawrence for two.

(Lavender con't from page 3)

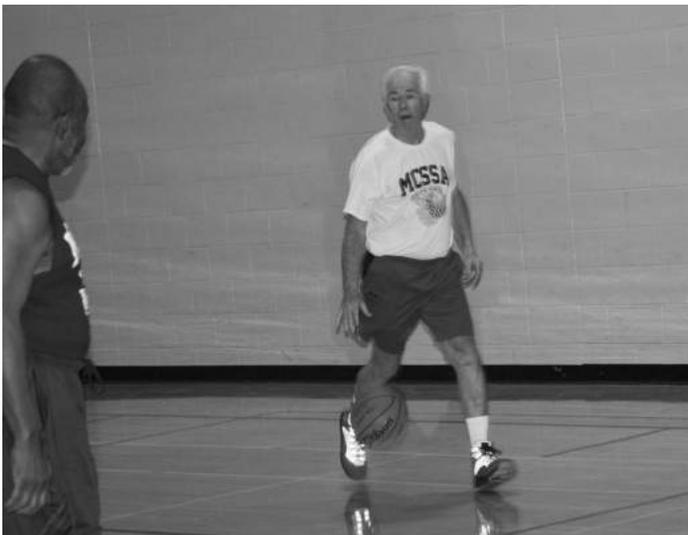
After my discharge, I applied to Fordham University, College of Pharmacy. I was not admitted because I did not have the required academic courses. But times changed and now there was the blessed G.I. Bill for veterans who wished to go on to a college education. So I went back to day and night classes at Theodore Roosevelt High School to make up what I was lacking (Algebra I and II, Intermediate Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry and European History) and when I finished I was admitted to Fordham in September 1948.

After graduating from Fordham, I took State Boards and received Registered Pharmacist licenses from New York, Rhode Island and Maryland. Eventually I went into my own business with a partner. After 13 years, we decided that small retail neighborhood pharmacies were on the way out so we sold the business. I then got a job with the Food & Drug Administration and that is what brought me to Washington in January 1966. I loved my new career with the Bureau of Compliance as a Food & Drug Officer. I was with FDA for 21 years and retired as the Deputy Director of the Division of Drug Labeling Compliance. It was the best job I ever had and I had plenty of time to play softball and ended up playing on teams that comprised the early days of MCSSA. Of note: coming to Maryland in 1966 broke my streak of 26 consecutive years playing softball. I did stop playing in 2014 because of an auto accident. Overall, I played softball for 73 years and loved every year of it.

I had the opportunity to play with the Tremont Hotel travelling team hopping around the country playing in tournaments. What a wonderful experience it was because of the generosity of our sponsor, Bill Smith, who was one of our pitchers and was a terrific player. Tremont Hotel team participated in 29 National tournaments and won 19 of them and came in second six times. When we got close to the end run of the Tremont Hotel team, Bill treated the entire team and their spouses/companions to a week's Caribbean cruise. It was a wonderful gesture on Bill's part and after he passed away he was honored by MCSSA with a special award for his dedication and contributions to the sport.

It was my good fortune to win many awards at the national and state levels participating in Senior Olympic competitions. I was inducted into Washington Metropolitan Slow Pitch Hall of Fame, the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame and the Maryland Slow Pitch Hall of Fame.

I must thank my wife, Marilyn, for her support and encouragement in giving me the freedom to play the game I was addicted to and accompanied me to many tournaments. I am also very thankful for the opportunity to play softball for the past 47 years for Tremont Hotel and MCSSA teams and getting to meet so many nice people on both sides of the diamond.



Frank Carlman on the move in the 70+ league.

MCSSA Board of Directors

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbents</u>
President	Jim Ganz
Vice-President	Don Juran
Secretary	Dan Mann
Treasurer	John Rice

Other Board Members

League Commissioners

Women's Masters	Carmen Campbell
Super Senior League	Ed Guillette
60+ Tuesday/Thursday Morning	Jacky Loube
Co-Rec Wednesday Morning	Don Juran
50+ Tuesday Night	Paul Jarosinski
55+ Thursday Night	Don Juran (Interim)
60+ Wednesday Night	Joe Fry
50+ Friday Night Draft	Dave Hyder
Basketball (50/55/60)	David Schardt
Basketball (65/70)	John Medford
Senior Olympics	George Huson
Volleyball	Stan Way



REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE SPRING DRAFT LEAGUES

Please indicate which league(s) you wish to play in and enclose the proper amount as indicated below. Make check payable to MCSSA. **Please note: Your Annual MCSSA Dues are included in the registration fee for whichever league you in which you want to play. You only need to pay Dues once a year. So if you sign up for multiple leagues you only pay the dues once.**

I want to play in the Super Senior Draft League on Monday Mornings (\$55.00) \$ _____

I want to play in the 60 and over Ross Emerson Morning League (\$125.00) \$ _____

Signup deadline for this league is April 10, 2016

I want to play in the 50 and over Draft League on Friday Nights (\$95.00) \$ _____

Signup deadline for this league, April 10, 2016

I would like to enter a team in the Wednesday Morning CoRec League (\$675) \$ _____

Annual MCSSA membership (\$5.00) \$ _____

Optional: Donation to MCSSA to further the goals of MCSSA \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth: _____

E-mail address _____

Emergency contact (required): _____ Phone: _____

It is vitally important that you provide an emergency contact and phone number

Would you like to be considered to manage a team in one of the leagues? YES NO

What positions do you play? _____ What playing dates will you miss? _____

**Mail this form with a check for the TOTAL AMOUNT DUE made out to MCSSA to:
MCSSA - 14320 Fairdale Road - Silver Spring MD 20905**

The participant assumes all risks associated with participation in the above activities. MCSSA assumes no liability for injury or damages arising from participation in these activities. Due to the strenuous nature of some activities, MCSSA encourages each participant to consult his or her physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. The participant consents to emergency treatment.

Signature _____



65+ Basketball League Action



Doug Squires with a soft touch.



Earl Mundell with a layup ala mode



Gary Lake gets off a hotly contested hook shot.



Herb Ballard for another three

MCSSA

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